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## SENATE ACCEPTS DOMENICI'S "NUCLEAR CITIES" AMENDMENT

### Nonproliferation Effort Added to Defense Authorization Bill

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Pete Domenici today gained Senate approval for a new United States effort to more effectively handle nuclear proliferation risks associated with the former Soviet Union.

The Senate on Tuesday night accepted the Domenici-authored amendment as part of the FY2001 Defense Authorization Bill. The Domenici amendment is similar to S.2492, the Nuclear Weapons Complex Conversion Act of 2000, which he introduced in May.

The amendment authorizes \$30 million for U.S. non-proliferation programs within the Russian nuclear complex, or the so-called Nuclear Cities Initiative (NCI). But release of future funding is conditioned on Russia demonstrating rapid progress in downsizing its nuclear weapons complex with the ability of the United States to track progress against verifiable milestones.

Both Los Alamos and Sandia national laboratories in New Mexico are heavily involved in the NCI program.

"This amendment sends Russia a very clear signal that the United States is serious about working with that country to stabilize its nuclear weapons activities and greatly limit the threat of its nuclear secrets, personnel and materials from proliferating throughout the world," Domenici said. "For our own long-term national security, we must do more to assist the Russians in restructuring their nuclear weapons complex. This will put us on the right track by increasing our involvement, but linking our investment in this effort to clear and transparent progress by the Russians themselves."

The legislation stipulates that a 10-year plan must be developed for restructuring the Russian nuclear weapons complex from military to civilian activities with transparent milestones. This plan would reflect new national security needs and a production capacity consistent with future arms control agreements.

While the United States has made dramatic progress in downsizing its nuclear weapons complex, the Russian complex remains at its Cold War levels, including 10 closed cities and about 750,000 workers--120,000 of whom have "critical knowledge" to its secrets.

The amendment, like S.2492, also includes a Sense of the Senate Resolution calling on the administration to finally appoint a high-level non-proliferation czar to coordinate U.S. efforts, as directed in the 1996 Nunn-Lugar-Domenici law. Finally, the amendment authorizes \$2 million for educational initiatives in both countries to develop new non-proliferation experts.